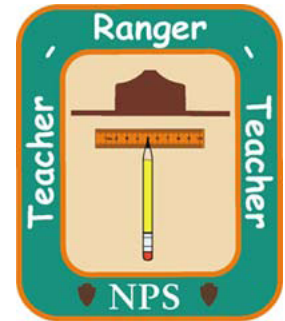




Teacher to Ranger to Teacher

The intent of the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program is to provide opportunities for teachers to have well-rounded work experiences in national parks. Teachers will develop lesson plans based on their experience for use in the classroom. The program focuses on teachers from schools that have diverse student populations, who have had no experience with national parks, or little opportunity to explore the relevance these areas can have in their lives.



Background

The challenge for the National Park Service (NPS) is to provide opportunities for all Americans to connect to their national heritage as embodied by national parks. The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) Program focuses on the education community and engages teachers from schools that are not currently being reached with park programs, paying particular attention to areas with large, ethnically diverse populations. This program hopes to offer additional opportunities for these populations to connect to the resources of their national parks.

Teachers are detailed as park rangers to parks through an Inter-governmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement between their public school district and the National Park Service. This program links national park units and teachers from under-served urban and rural school districts. Teachers spend the summer working and often also living in their park.

The parks provide a uniform, housing, and a stipend for the teachers. Teacher-Rangers perform various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park, including developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing the visitor center, developing curriculum-based materials for the park, or taking on special projects.

During the school year, Teacher-Rangers bring the parks into the classroom by developing and presenting curriculum-based lesson plans that draw on their summer's experience. In April, during National Park Week, Teacher-Rangers will wear their NPS uniforms to school, discuss their summer as a park ranger, and engage students and other teachers in activities that relate to America's national parks.

Application

Information and applications for the North Cascades National Park Teacher to Ranger Program is available online at www.nps.gov/noca/forteachers/professionaldevelopment.htm. In addition, you may contact Cindy Bjorklund regarding applications and specific position descriptions at (360) 854-7303 or via e-mail at Cindy_Bjorklund@nps.gov



Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program

Educational Opportunities



This place-based experience provides more opportunities for Teacher-Rangers to deeply connect with park resources. Exposure to our American heritage offers teachers a chance to gain a better understanding of civic engagement, of the relevance that parks have for all Americans, and of the diversity of sites that have been set aside by and for the American people. They, in turn, can provide opportunities for their students and other teachers to find their own connections to parks. Teacher-Rangers learn about the complexities of interpreting and researching cultural resources.

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Many Teacher-Rangers will work in parks with significant natural resources. For example, Teacher-Rangers may learn how:

- national parks research and interpret American Indian heritage and regularly consult with tribes;
- a variety of resources can be used for research, and how these resources are used to tell complex stories from a variety of viewpoints;
- a variety of partners contribute to projects being researched in the national park;
- to increase their understanding of scientific research and the complex issues related to these resources;
- scientific research is applied and interpreted within the national park;
- to apply National Park Service mission and ethics to resource management decisions;
- science in national parks relates to urban areas and issues.

Benefits of Being a Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT)

Participating Teacher-Rangers have the opportunity to develop a personal connection with national parks. These Teacher-Rangers develop a wide array of teaching examples based on real life experience in national parks and create “curricula enhancers” that highlight issues surrounding heritage conservation. They become life-long friends of the National Park Service and teach an ethic of heritage conservation in the schools where much of America’s future resides. Teacher-Rangers also obtain a wide range of knowledge and skills by working with personnel of a variety of divisions such as interpretation, resource management, maintenance, and non-law-enforcement specialties of resource protection.